USE OF SOFTWARE HINT FOR BRANCH
PREDICTION IN THE ABSENCE OF HINT BIT
IN THE BRANCH INSTRUCTION

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a processor, when a conditional branch instruction is encountered, a software prediction for the conditional branch is made as a function of the specific condition register field used to store the branch condition for the conditional branch instruction. If a specified condition register field is not used, the software prediction may be made dependent upon the specific address at which the branch instruction is located.

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